

MIDWINTER FAIR!

Brownsville, Texas

January 11, 12 and 13, 1909

SPECIAL PREMIUMS

Including Valuable Town Lots to be given for best display of Valley Truck, Vegetables, etc. A Poultry Show of Valley Poultry to be a special feature.

All Farmers and Truck Growers in the Valley invited to exhibit. Those desiring to enter exhibits should address

W. E. McDAVITT, Brownsville, Texas, or

Brownsville Business Men's Club

With Best Wishes for a

Happy New Year

The

Variety Store Company

HOW DR. COOK ROSE TO FAME

SIMPLE TALE OF A MONUMENTAL
HUMBUG'S EXPLOITS.

First Sprang Story of Ascent of Mt. McKinley. This Was Swallowed by the Dear Public and the North Pole Looked Easy.

On November 28, 1906, Dr. Frederick A. Cook, physician and explorer, arrived in New York city with the story of having ascended Mount McKinley, an unprecedented feat, on his lips. On July 9 of the following year he touched at North Sydney, C. B., aboard the schooner John R. Bradley, and made known that he was bound upon a scientific trip to the Arctic regions. Two months later word came from Etah, Greenland, that the conqueror of Mt. McKinley was about to make a dash for the North Pole. His backer, John R. Bradley, later stated that his expedition had been fitted out quietly and that in the following spring the dash for the Pole would be begun.

Then followed a protracted period during which little was heard of the Cook outfit. Finally becoming alarmed for his safety, early in the present year a relief expedition was fitted out to go north in the summer and search for the explorers. The rescue party left New York late in the summer.

On Sept. 1 last, the world was startled by a message from Dr. Cook to the effect that he had reached the North Pole on April 21, 1908. This message was received at the colonial office in Copenhagen, being sent from Lerwick, Shetland Islands. Dr. Cook was then on board the Danish Government steamship Hans Egede, which had passed Lerwick at noon September 1, en route for Denmark. The telegram announcing Cook's alleged achievement was sent by a Greenland official on board the steamship and read as follows:

"We have on board the American traveler, Dr. Cook, who reached the North Pole April 21, 1908. Dr. Cook arrived at Upernavik (the northernmost Danish settlement in Greenland on an island off the west coast) in May of 1909 from Cape York (in the northwest part of Greenland on Baffin Bay). The Eskimos of Cape York confirm Dr. Cook's story of his journey."

The astonishment over the news of the great achievement was followed by praise that was fairly world-wide. With few exceptions the press accepted Cook's claims at their face value. What doubt was expressed was chiefly in the British press, a portion of which, while not questioning the explorer's veracity, expressed a doubt

of whether he had actually accomplished what he believed he had done.

Dr. Cook returning to civilization made a triumphal entry into the harbor of Copenhagen on Sept. 4. Standing on the bridge of the Hans Egede from the mizzenmast of which flew the flag of the United States, Dr. Cook, smilingly, modestly and with dignity accepted the tributes shouted from the flock of little vessels which gathered about the steamer and escorted her to the pier.

Crown Prince Christian of Denmark, Maurice F. Egan, the United States minister; the Danish Minister of Commerce and committees representing various public bodies boarded the Hans Egede and welcomed Cook in the name of the nation and the city. He was escorted ashore by Prince Christian and, followed by an immense throng that cheered itself hoarse, made his way to the Meteorological Institute, where he made a brief speech, saying that he had left at the North Pole an American flag and a box containing documents including a brief account of his trip and certain observations and data to bear out his claim.

In an interview he said: "I have been to the North Pole and I have brought back the most exact observations absolutely proving my statement. I have kept a diary throughout my entire expedition, in which I recorded the most minute details. It was not my intention at the start to proceed to the Pole. I was merely on an Arctic excursion. But as I found conditions favorable, I continued on my way to the Pole."

Cook was honored by all of Denmark.

On the day following his arrival at Copenhagen, Cook was the guest at dinner of King Frederick at the summer palace. The king had invited Cook after his Government had made a cursory investigation of his story and accepted it as true. On Sept. 7 the explorer delivered a lecture before a distinguished audience including the king and queen, the Prince and Princess George of Greece and many of the members of the royal family. At the conclusion of his remarks he was presented with a gold medal by the crown prince.

On the day of his decoration a sensation was caused by a message from the Arctic. This read:

"Indian Harbor, via Cape Ray, N. F., Sept. 8. To The Associated Press, New York:

"Stars and Stripes nailed to the North Pole."

(Signed) "Peary."

Peary was informed of Cook's claim, and on the same day, Sept. 7, threw the world into partisan fury by this message of claim and allegation:

"Indian Harbor, Labrador (via wireless, via Cape Ray, N. F., Sept. 7. To Melville E. Stone, The Associated Press, New York—I have

nailed the Stars and Stripes to the North Pole. This is authoritative and correct. Cook's story should not be taken too seriously. The two Eskimos who accompanied him say he went no distance north and not out of sight of land. Other members of the tribe corroborate the story."

(Signed) "Peary."

This was followed by another message from Peary, saying:

"Cook has sold the public a gold brick."

From the moment these messages were published a storm of partisan discussion arose. Though Peary undoubtedly had shaken popular confidence in Cook, he at the same time made friends for his rival by what is looked upon by some as a display of pique. Since then the battle between the Cook party and the friends of Peary has waged incessantly.

On Sept. 21 Cook arrived at New York and Peary at Sydney, N. S. Cook was acclaimed by his followers and wine and dined as a hero. Peary remained quietly at his home near Portland, Me. Soon afterwards Cook delivered a series of lectures, and finally on Dec. 8 last submitted the records of his expedition to the University of Copenhagen, which has now declared that these records do not prove that the alleged discoverer ever reached the North Pole.—Boston Transcript.

HEADS GRAND TRUNK LINE.

Chicago Man Succeeds Canadian as President.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—With the retirement of Sir Charles Rivers Wilson, of London, as president of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, announced for the end of the year, a Chicago man will hereafter control the destinies of the great transportation system. He is Charles Melville Hays, for some time second vice-president and general manager of the road. Sir Charles will receive a pension of \$7,500 annually from the Grand Trunk. By selecting a Chicago man, for Mr. Hays was from 1889 to 1896 general manager of the Wabash here, the English directors of the Grand Trunk have taken advantage of the opportunity to make changes which will bring the company into line with other American railways. Alfred Smithers, who has been a director for fourteen years, will succeed Sir Rivers as chairman of the board. Mr. Hays was born at Rock Island, Ill., in 1856.

Railroad Man Retires.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 31.—Joel W. Burdick, passenger traffic manager of the Delaware & Hudson, resigned today to assume the active management of the West Penn. Steel Company of Pittsburg, of which he is president.